

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method to be performed by a data processing system to improve fault tolerance comprising:

 providing distributed queuing of workflows, whose execution is requested by one or more execution-requesting clients, among a plurality of workflow engines; and

 only if a workflow is successfully completed by a first workflow engine for an execution-requesting client, sending a notification ~~an explicit and delayed acknowledgement~~ to the execution-requesting client, else assigning the workflow to a second workflow engine by sending it a work assignment message, in response to which the second workflow engine alone completes the workflow.

2. (Original) The method recited in claim 1, wherein providing is performed by a load manager.

3. (Original) The method recited in claim 2, wherein the load manager comprises a commercially available middleware product.

4. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 1, wherein the notification ~~an explicit and delayed acknowledgement~~ is performed by a certified messaging capability.

5. (Original) The method recited in claim 4, wherein the certified messaging capability is performed by a load manager.

6. (Original) The method recited in claim 4, wherein the load manager comprises a commercially available middleware product.

7. (Original) The method recited in claim 4, wherein the certified messaging capability is performed by a certified message receiver forming part of the workflow.

8. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 4 and further comprising:
the certified messaging capability sending a notification an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the execution-requesting client if the workflow is completed by the second workflow engine.

9. (Currently Amended) A method to be performed by a computer network comprising a plurality of clients and a plurality of workflow engines:

providing distributed queuing of workflows, whose execution can be requested by one or more execution-requesting clients, among the plurality of workflow engines; and

determining whether a workflow has been successfully completed by a first workflow engine on behalf of an execution-requesting client; and

only if so, sending a notification an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the execution-requesting client;

otherwise, assigning the workflow to a second workflow engine by sending it a work assignment message, and the second workflow engine alone completing the workflow.

10. (Original) The method recited in claim 9, wherein providing is performed by a load manager.

11. (Original) The method recited in claim 10, wherein the load manager comprises a commercially available middleware product.

12. (Original) The method recited in claim 9, wherein sending is performed by a certified messaging capability.

13. (Original) The method recited in claim 12, wherein the certified messaging capability is performed by a load manager.

14. (Original) The method recited in claim 12, wherein the load manager comprises a commercially available middleware product.

15. (Original) The method recited in claim 12, wherein the certified messaging capability is performed by a certified message receiver in the workflow.

16. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 12 and further comprising:
the certified messaging capability sending a notification ~~an explicit and delayed acknowledgement~~ to the execution-requesting client if the workflow is completed by the second workflow engine.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer adapted for use in a computer network comprising a plurality of workflow engines, the computer executing a computer program, the computer program operating the computer in a fault-tolerant manner and comprising the operations of:

requesting a workflow execution on behalf of a client;
a distributed queuing capability assigning the workflow execution to a first workflow engine;

determining whether the workflow execution has been successfully completed by the first workflow engine; and

only if so, sending a notification ~~an explicit and delayed acknowledgement~~ to the client;
otherwise, assigning the workflow execution to a second workflow engine by sending it a work assignment message, and the second workflow engine alone completing the workflow.

18. (Original) The computer recited in claim 17, wherein requesting is performed by a load manager.

19. (Original) The computer recited in claim 17, wherein sending is performed by a certified messaging capability.

20. (Original) The computer recited in claim 19, wherein the certified messaging capability is performed by a certified message receiver in the first workflow engine.

21. (Currently Amended) The computer recited in claim 19 and further comprising:
the certified messaging capability sending a notification ~~an explicit and delayed acknowledgement~~ to the client if the workflow execution is completed by the second workflow engine.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer network comprising:
a plurality of clients;
a plurality of workflow engines; and
at least one computer program, the computer program operating in a fault-tolerant manner and performing the operations of:
requesting a workflow execution on behalf of a client;
assigning the workflow execution to a first workflow engine;
determining whether the workflow execution has been successfully completed by the first workflow engine; and
only if so, sending a notification ~~an explicit and delayed acknowledgement~~ to the client;
otherwise, assigning the workflow execution to a second workflow engine by sending it a work assignment message, and the second workflow engine alone completing the workflow.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer network recited in claim 22, wherein requesting is performed by a load manager having a distributed queuing capability.

24. (Original) The computer network recited in claim 22, wherein sending is performed by a certified messaging capability.

25. (Original) The computer network recited in claim 24, wherein the certified messaging capability is performed by a certified message receiver in the first workflow engine.

26. (Currently Amended) The computer network recited in claim 24 and further comprising: the certified messaging capability sending a notification ~~an explicit and delayed acknowledgement~~ to the client if the workflow execution is completed by the second workflow engine.

27. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing computer instructions for instructing a processor, the processor adapted for use in a computer network comprising a plurality of workflow engines, wherein the instructions comprise:

requesting a workflow execution on behalf of a client;
a distributed queuing capability assigning the workflow execution to a first workflow engine;

determining whether the workflow execution has been successfully completed by the first workflow engine; and

only if so, sending a notification ~~an explicit and delayed acknowledgement~~ to the client;
otherwise, assigning the workflow execution to a second workflow engine by sending it a work assignment message, and the second workflow engine alone completing the workflow.

28. (Original) The computer-readable medium recited in claim 27, wherein requesting is performed by a load manager.

29. (Original) The computer-readable medium recited in claim 27, wherein sending is performed by a certified messaging capability.

30. (Original) The computer-readable medium recited in claim 29, wherein the certified messaging capability is performed by a certified message receiver in the first workflow engine.

31. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium recited in claim 29 and further comprising:

the certified messaging capability sending a notification an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the client if the workflow execution is completed by the second workflow engine.

32. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a machine-accessible medium having instructions for instructing a processor forming part of a plurality of workflow engines, wherein the instructions, when accessed, result in a machine performing:

requesting a workflow execution on behalf of a client;

assigning the workflow execution to a first workflow engine;

determining whether the workflow execution has been successfully completed by the first workflow engine; and

only if so, sending a notification an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the client;

otherwise, assigning the workflow execution to a second workflow engine by sending it a work assignment message, and the second workflow engine alone completing the workflow.

33. (Previously Presented) The article recited in claim 32, wherein requesting is performed by a load manager having a distributed queuing capability.

34. (Previously Presented) The article recited in claim 32, wherein sending is performed by a certified messaging capability.

35. (Previously Presented) The article recited in claim 34, wherein the certified messaging capability is performed by a certified message receiver in the first workflow engine.

36. (Currently Amended) The article recited in claim 34 and further comprising:

the certified messaging capability sending a notification an explicit and delayed acknowledgement to the client if the workflow execution is completed by the second workflow engine.